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UNITED NATIONS PLEDGING CONFERENCE
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New York, 25 April 1990

APPEAL BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Letter dated 18 April 1990 from the Secretary-General addressed to all Member States

At their summit meeting held at Tela, Honduras, on 7 August 1989, the five Central American Presidents adopted a joint plan for the voluntary demobilization, repatriation or relocation in Nicaragua or third countries of the members of the Nicaraguan resistance and their families. 1/ They also requested me and the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) to establish an international support and verification commission (CIAV) for the purpose of implementing the plan. On 25 August 1989, the Secretary General of OAS and I agreed to this proposal effective 6 September 1989. I informed the President of the Security Council of these developments through my letter dated 28 August 1989. 2/ In a letter addressed to me on 20 September 1989, 3/ the Council noted with approval the steps that I had taken to establish CIAV and put it into operation.

For its part, the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/10 of 23 October 1989, expressed its full support to me in the performance of the functions which the Central American Presidents had entrusted to me as a member of CIAV, together with the Secretary General of OAS.

The task of demobilizing the members of the Nicaraguan resistance, understood to mean receiving their weapons and storing them, has been entrusted by the Security Council to the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) under resolution 650 (1990) of 27 March 1990 on the basis of a report that I submitted to the Council. 4/

In an exchange of letters with the Secretary General of OAS, we agreed that both organizations should co-operate closely and we have also agreed to delineate our respective responsibilities within CIAV as follows:

(a) The United Nations component of CIAV would have responsibility for those members of the Nicaraguan resistance who voluntarily demobilize outside Nicaraguan territory (in Honduras or Costa Rica) and would also be responsible for their subsequent repatriation as well as that of their families who opt for the Tela Plan. The responsibility of the United Nations component of CIAV will extend to the follow-up in Nicaragua of the returnees and taking care of their immediate and rehabilitation needs until they are integrated into development activities;

(b) The OAS component of CIAV would have responsibility for those members of the Nicaraguan resistance who voluntarily demobilize on Nicaraguan territory as well as members of their families who by their own means return to Nicaragua from Honduras and Costa Rica. The responsibility of OAS will extend to taking care of their basic needs and facilitating their return to the region of origin or of choice until they are integrated into the development activities in the areas of return.

I have requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to lend their co-operation to the United Nations component of CIAV, in accordance with their respective mandates, in the voluntary repatriation or relocation of the members of the Nicaraguan resistance and their families, as well as of Nicaraguan refugees in neighbouring countries who, as foreseen by the Central American Presidents, may also benefit from the Tela Plan. I am also preparing an aide-mémoire and attachments (see annex), which outline the proposed activities and corresponding financial requirements. This information has been prepared in close co-operation with UNHCR and UNDP.

The initial financial requirements for the first year of operation of the United Nations component of CIAV, including immediate and rehabilitation assistance, monitoring and preparatory activities for long-term development assistance, are estimated at $US 56,758,100. For planning purposes, the number of returnees is estimated at 90,000, with 60,000 to be repatriated from Honduras and 30,000 from Costa Rica. It should be noted that, since it cannot at this stage be determined how many of the members of the Nicaraguan resistance will demobilize inside or outside Nicaragua, it is unavoidable that some duplication may exist between the present appeal and any appeal launched by OAS.

I should hereby like to appeal to Member Governments to support the tasks to be undertaken by the United Nations, in the context of CIAV. In particular, I urge Governments to announce, at the earliest opportunity, generous financial contributions to this operation in order to enable the United Nations to carry out this task, which will greatly contribute to the advancement of the peace process in Central America.

8. In this connection, I propose to convene a Pledging Conference at Headquarters on 25 April 1990.

Notes

1/ A/44/451-S/20778, annex I.

2/ S/20856.

3/ S/20857.

4/ S/21194.

Annex

AIDE-MEMOIRE

The voluntary demobilization, repatriation or relocation of the members of the Nicaraguan resistance, their families and affected refugees from Honduras and Costa Rica

1. CIAV was set up on 6 September 1989 by the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and OAS and will remain active for the period required for the fulfilment of its mandate. To this effect, CIAV adopted a plan of action dividing its tasks into three phases:

(a) Demobilization of Nicaraguan resistance members;

(b) Voluntary repatriation or resettlement of demobilized Nicaraguan resistance members and their families and of Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras and Costa Rica;

(c) Integration of the returnees in Nicaragua into the development process.

2. These three phases are in practice consecutive inasmuch as only demobilized persons can be voluntarily repatriated or relocated in third countries. Similarly, integration into the development process can take place only after the beneficiaries have returned to Nicaragua.

3. The present aide-mémoire relates to the voluntary repatriation of demobilized Nicaraguan resistance members and their families from Honduras and Costa Rica as well as Nicaraguan refugees in those countries who wish to avail themselves of the provisions of the Plan. Where it occurs, the term "beneficiaries" in the present document refers to these categories of persons.

1. Overall co-ordination

4. The Executive Office of the Secretary-General will be in charge of overall co-ordination with OAS and it will undertake any political or diplomatic action required. It will also set general policy guidelines for the United Nations component of CIAV, applicable to the United Nations, UNHCR and UNDP, as required. It will also receive reports on monitoring undertaken by UNHCR and any other agencies on behalf of CIAV and make any representation warranted by the circumstances. Overall co-ordination costs are estimated at $US 240,000.

2. Phase I: Demobilization of Nicaraguan resistance members

5. On the basis of a report submitted by the Secretary-General, under resolution 650 (1990), the Security Council entrusted responsibility for the demobilization of

READEX

the Nicaraguan resistance to ONUCA. Costs to be incurred in the implementation of this phase are not covered in the present aide-mémoire.

3. Phase II: Voluntary repatriation or resettlement

6. It is expected that the majority of the persons concerned by this programme will opt for voluntary repatriation and that the numbers who wish to settle in third countries will not be significant. The present aide-mémoire therefore does not contain any provisions for resettlement at this stage.

7. The Secretary-General has requested UNHCR and UNDP to lend their co-operation to the United Nations component of CIAV, in accordance with their respective mandates, in the voluntary repatriation or relocation of the members of the Nicaraguan resistance and their families, as well as of Nicaraguan refugees in neighbouring countries who, as foreseen by the Central American Presidents, may also benefit from the Tela Plan.

8. UNHCR will play a leading role during the implementation of all stages of the voluntary repatriation process.

9. The Nicaraguan resistance members and their families are estimated at some 40,000 persons. In addition, 20,000 Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras, who are not part of the resistance and who are located in the Department of El Paraíso and the Honduran Mosquitia, may decide to return to Nicaragua. Furthermore, provision is made for the voluntary repatriation of 20,000 refugees and 10,000 persons in a refugee-like situation from Costa Rica. Therefore, the total number of people covered by this programme is 90,000.

10. The programme comprises two elements. The first will take place in Honduras and Costa Rica and last approximately six months after demobilization. The second will take place in Nicaragua and last approximately 12 months following the return of the beneficiaries as described above.

11. In Honduras, the principal tasks will be (a) to establish that the persons concerned as well as their family members wish to return; (b) to register families; (c) to provide means of subsistence to the Nicaraguan resistance members who have surrendered their weapons and may therefore apply for CIAV assistance; (d) to provide assistance to the families of the demobilized Nicaraguan resistance members; and (e) to provide them with transport to the reception centres within Nicaragua located up to 30 kilometres from the border. Four centres will be opened at Jalapa, Ocotal, Rivas, and San Carlos. If necessary, two others could be opened at Somoto and Somotillo.

12. In Costa Rica, the principal tasks will be similar to those in Honduras. Transit centres will be established in Liberia and San José as well as in the refugee camps in Achiote, Alvaperal and Tilaran. In addition, international procurement for the rehabilitation programme for all returnees in Nicaragua will also be undertaken in Costa Rica.

13. Upon reaching the first reception centre in Nicaragua, the beneficiaries will receive from the Nicaraguan authorities the necessary documentation to guarantee the full exercise of their civil rights. They will then be transferred from the reception centre to their final destinations or, where necessary, to a second reception centre prior to their transfer to their final destination.

14. The beneficiaries will receive a food allowance for their first six months in Nicaragua as well as rehabilitation assistance in the form of construction materials and tools, seeds and agricultural tools. Assistance will also be provided for the regularization of personal documents such as birth, marriage and academic or professional certificates. As part of the United Nations component of CIAV, UNHCR will closely monitor the fulfilment of the guarantees offered to the returnees by the Nicaraguan Government.

15. The implementation of the repatriation programme, as summarized above, is estimated to cost $US 48,028,000. Further information concerning this budget by country, programme sector and activity are to be found in appendix I to the present aide-mémoire.

16. Parallel to the repatriation and rehabilitation programme described above, UNDP has drawn up a transition programme, called "preparation for integration", which includes a set of activities to be carried out before, and designed to facilitate, the subsequent integration stage (phase III). This transition programme has several goals: first, to provide training to beneficiaries of assistance under the programme of the United Nations component of CIAV in key social and productive areas such as agricultural techniques, health and others; second, to provide technical assistance and training to national staff responsible for the management and implementation of development projects; and third, to train the national staff responsible for the ongoing activities of the training centres.

17. UNDP will also collaborate in the identification of the final destination sites within the framework of the overall development strategy of Nicaragua, in close consultation with the appropriate government authorities.

18. In order to facilitate the integration of returnees, an assessment of the national, regional and local development strategies and the programmes in Nicaragua will be undertaken. This assessment should lead to specific proposals aimed at adapting the existing programme to the requirements of the new situation.

19. At the same time, projects will be designed for implementation during phase III of the above-mentioned plan of action. These projects will take into account the overall development strategy for Nicaragua, and will in particular bear in mind the Concerted Plan of Action of the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) and the related programme in favour of Central American refugees, returnees and displaced persons (PRODERE). These preparatory activities are therefore essential for the successful integration of the beneficiaries into the social and economic development process in Nicaragua, and account will be taken of all aspects of the social environment in which the returnees will be integrated, whether in urban or in rural areas.

20. The total cost of this programme is $US 8,490,100. Further information on the activities to be carried out as well as on their corresponding budgets is contained in appendix II to the present aide-mémoire.

4. Phase III: Integration into the development process

21. This phase will be carried out under the main responsibility of UNDP and will cover the integration of returnees into the local, regional and national development programmes, not only as beneficiaries, but also as active participants and promoters. The implementation of phase III will require additional financial resources and a special appeal will be launched in this respect.

5. Summary

22. As noted above, the present appeal refers only to overall co-ordination costs for and implementation of phase II, the total cost of which is estimated at $US 56,758,100. Contributions from the international community should be announced in favour of the general trust fund established by the United Nations for the operation.

Appendix I

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES: ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET CONCERNING THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION AND MONITORING OF RETURNEES

1. The present appendix contains a summarized description of activities in which UNHCR will participate for the implementation of the voluntary repatriation programme of the Joint Plan. A budget covering the activities foreseen is also included.

I. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Registration

2. Each family has to be registered and the wishes of its members to repatriate have to be verified. To this end, each head of family will be interviewed so as to provide basic personal data on a special form designed for this purpose. The traditional voluntary repatriation declaration form to be signed by the persons concerned will be integrated into the basic registration form.

3. In order to register all project beneficiaries, the temporary recruitment of a team of 50 persons is foreseen. Registration of all beneficiaries will be carried out in 20 days.

4. In Costa Rica, a 15-member team of voluntary agency personnel will be established for a six-month period. A team of inter-agency personnel will carry out the registration procedures at designated transit centres during a six-month period.

Care and maintenance

5. The demobilized members of the Nicaraguan resistance, as well as their dependants, will receive basic and complementary food rations, pending their voluntary repatriation. Persons with nutritional problems will receive a supplementary daily ration. Based on a previous evaluation of needs, beneficiaries will also receive domestic/household items. Similarly, the health care and sanitation needs of the population will be covered.

Assistance to the repatriation movement

6. In order to cover the initial basic requirements during the journey and at the places of final destination, each family will receive upon departure a food basket to cover one month's needs. Likewise, a repatriation cash grant is to be provided.

Transportation

7. The returnees and their belongings will be transferred in buses and trucks from departure centres in Costa Rica and Honduras to the reception centres in Nicaragua. Based on experience acquired by UNHCR in similar operations, it is considered that convoys should consist of a maximum of 30 vehicles, for the transportation of 500 returnees and their personal belongings. If the volume of the return movement should so require, a logistics network will be set up to operate simultaneously at the different entry points and reception centres.

Reception centres for the first stage

8. Communal facilities will be used (schools, churches, health centres, community centres) as reception centres. The first-stage reception centres will be located at a maximum of 30 km from the border entry point. In addition to providing lodging and food, refugee registration will be carried out and refugees will receive their identity papers, medical clearance, other assistance and organization of travel to their places of destination. A maximum stay of three days is expected at the centres, which will be able to shelter 500 persons each. The first-stage reception centres will be situated in Jalapa, Ocotal, Somoto and Somotillo for entry through Murupuchi, Las Manos, El Espino and Guassaule border points, respectively. For repatriation from Costa Rica, the first-stage reception centres will be in Rivas for entries through Peñas Blancas and in San Carlos for entries through Los Chiles (pending bilateral agreement to open the Los Chiles border point).

Reception centres at the second stage/places of destination

9. From the first-stage reception centres the returnees will be transferred to their places of destination, except in cases where these are very far (i.e. Atlantic Coast, Chontales, Rio San Juán), when they will then be transferred to second-stage reception centres. Such centres, like those of the first stage, are communal buildings adapted to serve as reception centres, and are located in Jinotega, Managua and León. The returnees will remain there until they are transferred to their respective places of destination.

Support to the documentation process

10. The Joint Plan foresees that the Nicaraguan authorities will issue the necessary documentation to returnees at the designated border posts to guarantee the full exercise of their civil rights. To avoid delays during the transportation of returnees, it is suggested that the documents be distributed at the reception centres.

11. Support will also be provided for the legalization of the returnees' personal documents such as birth certificates for children born in Honduras and Costa Rica, validation of marriage certificates, study certificates, etc.

Immediate and rehabilitation assistance

12. In addition to food provisions at the sites of departure in Honduras and Costa Rica (basic food basket for a month), returnees will receive in Nicaragua food aid for a period of six months, during their initial settlement period (construction of houses and preparation of land for sowing). This food allowance will cover the period between the time of repatriation and the first harvest for beneficiaries who decide to work in agricultural production activities.

13. Once returnees have reached their places of destination, they will receive material assistance for their rehabilitation. Also foreseen for distribution to returnees is a supply of materials for repairs to communal centres in the communities of return (schools, health centres) as well as for any improvement or maintenance and repair of the water supply system that may be required.

Monitoring

14. UNHCR, as part of CIAV, will closely monitor the situation of the returnees in line with activities undertaken in similar situations elsewhere. To carry out this task, UNHCR will count on the following infrastructure: in addition to the existing offices in Puerto Cabezas, Bluefields, Esteli and San Carlos, CIAV offices will also be established in Ocotal, Chinandega, Rivas, Juigalpa and Matagalpa. All these offices will be staffed by international and local support staff (some 60 persons) and will be equipped with the necessary logistical support (cars, communication system). UNHCR assistance responsibilities in the reception and initial rehabilitation phases imply periodic visits to the returnees to assess/monitor their situation and needs in co-ordination with local authorities and the implementing agencies. The effective presence of UNHCR in the returnee areas will also allow returnees who may so desire to report to CIAV any special difficulties they may have encountered. For its monitoring functions UNHCR will co-operate with the local offices of the OAS component of CIAV and will seek the support of churches, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in line with a request from the Government of Nicaragua and/or specific agreement with CIAV.

II. BUDGET BY SECTOR OF ACTIVITY AND COUNTRY

(In United States dollars)

(For 90,000 beneficiaries)

Sector	Honduras (60 000)	Costa Rica (30 000)	Nicaragua (90 000)	Total
Food	2 664 399	339 848	4 408 800	7 413 047
Transport/logistics	1 205 270	1 188 427	5 964 000	8 357 697
Household needs	3 137 245	1 172 352	4 771 125	9 080 722
Water	22 500	1 505	142 000	166 005
Sanitation	76 655	-	186 500	263 155
Health	329 955	-	201 000	530 955
Shelter/other infrastructure	163 250	-	10 703 500	10 866 750
Agricultural production	-	-	4 760 000	4 760 000
Fishing	-	-	70 000	70 000
Legal assistance/ protection	127 157	235 529	406 700	769 386
Operational support	531 569	167 339	2 801 375	3 500 283
Total	8 258 000	3 105 000	34 415 000	45 778 000
UNHCR direct administrative support costs				1 680 000
Overhead charges				570 000
Grand total				48 028 000

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III. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

15. In Honduras, assistance activities will be carried out by UNHCR implementing partners in the Department of El Paraíso, namely, the Honduran Red Cross and Caritas Arquidiocesaña. The activities mentioned under the health sector will be co-ordinated and supervised by the Ministry of Health.

16. In Costa Rica, assistance activities will be mainly carried out by UNHCR implementing partners in San José and in the field, namely, the Costa Rican Red Cross and the International Rescue Committee. The activities mentioned under the health sector will be co-ordinated and supervised by the Ministry of Health.

17. In Nicaragua, implementation of the initial assistance programme will be in the same manner as the modalities for the assistance project for returnees implemented by UNHCR in four areas of the country. It is foreseen that the Assistance to Returnees Programme (PAR), an interinstitutional structure, will be co-ordinated and supervised by the regional Governments. PAR will be in charge of programme implementation.

18. The activities mentioned under the legal assistance sector, the international transport of returnees, payment of voluntary repatriation allowance, activities mentioned under the operational support sector and monitoring will be directly co-ordinated by UNHCR in all three countries.

Appendix II

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: ACTIVITIES LEADING TO THE INTEGRATION OF NICARAGUAN RETURNEES AND BUDGET

1. The present appendix contains a brief description of UNDP activities and budget for the implementation of the initial stages of integration of returnees with the local population, as well as in the country's development process.

I. PREPARATION FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE POPULATION

2. The activities to be developed in this stage will initially focus on training and technical assistance and subsequently on the formulation of project documents for the integration stage.

Training and technical assistance

3. Given the multisectoral nature of the activities, training and technical assistance are considered to be catalytic in order to link the repatriation and integration process with the development processes at all levels.

Four types of training and technical assistance activities are envisaged:

(a) Training of beneficiaries linked to the implementation of rural projects and programmes. The educational level of the beneficiaries is relatively low. Therefore, training activities will focus on health and hygiene, social organization, agricultural techniques, self-construction of housing, labour safety, basic education and environmental protection;

(b) Training related to the implementation of urban integration projects. This will be carried out through workshops and training courses aimed at improving knowledge of simple technologies related to productive activities. This training will complement the skills of the beneficiaries;

(c) Training of the staff responsible for the implementation and management of the projects. This activity includes personnel in national institutions who are responsible for the co-ordination of integration and development programmes and projects;

(d) Training and technical assistance for the staff in training centres.

4. The acquisition of equipment and training material is envisaged for training activities. The improvement or construction of centres is also foreseen.

Formulation of project documents

5. Taking into account the evolution of the situation in the region, it is important to project the whole exercise as part of a complex chain of interlinked actions in both the political and the economic fields.

6. This stage includes the detailed formulation of project documents to permit the implementation of integration projects. Project profiles within the CIREFCA Plan, which includes PRODERE, will be reviewed and analysed with a view to increasing the target beneficiary population.

II. BUDGET BY SECTOR OF ACTIVITY

(In United States dollars)

(For 90,000 beneficiaries)

Item	Total
Training	
Maintenance	1 590 900
Trainers	675 000
Training material	630 000
Documentation centres	110 000
Institutional support	230 000
Fellowships	217 500
Administrative costs of training centres	725 000
Miscellaneous	75 000
Subtotal	4 253 400
Establishment of training centres	
Construction of seven multifunctional training centres	488 500
Improvement of principal training centre	65 000
Personnel	59 500
Furniture and supplies	232 000
Audio-visual and printing equipment	95 700
Subtotal	940 700
Technical assistance	
International experts (203 work/months)	1 306 000
Mission costs	400 000
Subtotal	1 706 000
Project design	
Personnel	362 000
Mission costs and seminars	215 000
Office supplies	97 000
Miscellaneous	75 000
Subtotal	749 000
Administrative costs	841 000
Total	8 490 100